

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Euthanasia of Animals

**Policy
Number**

K-10

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Policy

To establish guidelines to be followed by the Department of Animal Control in the euthanasia of animals.

Background

Each year a large number of unwanted, sick or injured animals are euthanized by the Department of Animal Control in carrying out its Animal Health and Regulation Program. In the past, the primary means of accomplishing this was through the use of high altitude chambers. Since September of 1978, this County recognized significant public opposition to this method and abolished it in favor of the use of sodium pentobarbital injection as a means of animal euthanasia.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

- A. The use of high altitude chambers for animal euthanasia shall be discontinued. (California State Penal Code Section 597w forbids the use of any high altitude decompression chambers.)
- B. The primary means of animal euthanasia accomplished by the Department of Animal Control shall be through an intravenous injection of an overdose of sodium pentobarbital.
- C. Notwithstanding the above, euthanasia of any newborn dog or cat whose eyes have not yet opened shall be accomplished only by the use of chloroform vapor or gas or by injection of barbiturates.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-03.

Board Action

09-12-78 (34)
12-04-84 (28)
07-26-88 (43)
12-12-89 (49)
03-27-90 (47)
12-08-98 (53)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Animal Control